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Amendments to the Claims

The following claims will replace all prior versions of the claims in this application (in the unlikely event that no claims follow herein, the previously pending claims will remain):

1. (Previously presented) A process for fashioning a permanent connection between at least 2 components, at least one of said components being a thermoplastic sealing or connecting member obtained by molding a thermoplastic elastomeric material, at least one other component being a non-sealing member, said permanent connection being located at a desired location of said non-sealing member, comprising:
 - a. stretching said sealing or connecting member;
 - b. relaxing said stretched member from step (a) at ambient temperature;
 - c. placing said member from step (b) at the desired location on said non-sealing member; and
 - d. exposing said members from step (c) to an increased temperature of at most about 20 °C below the melting temperature of the thermoplastic elastomeric material.
2. (Currently amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein the thermoplastic ~~elastomer~~ elastomeric material is a copolyether ester.
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Currently amended) A process for fashioning a permanent connection between at least 2 components with at least one thermoplastic sealing or connecting component obtained by molding the component from a thermoplastic elastomeric material, stretching the component, and relaxing the component at ambient temperature according to claim 3, and at least one non-sealing member, comprising:

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a. placing said thermoplastic sealing or connecting component at the location of the desired connection on said non-sealing member; and

b. exposing said thermoplastic sealing or connecting component to an increased temperature of at most about 20 °C below the melting point of the thermoplastic elastomeric material.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently amended) A process for fashioning a permanent connection between at least 2 components, with at least one thermoplastic sealing or connecting component according to claim 4, and ~~at least one non-sealing member, comprising:~~

~~a. placing said thermoplastic sealing or connecting component at the location of the desired connection on said non-sealing member;~~

~~b. exposing said thermoplastic sealing or connecting component to an increased temperature of at most about 20 °C below the melting point of the thermoplastic elastomeric material wherein the thermoplastic elastomeric material is a copolyetherester.~~

9. (Cancelled).

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Previously presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein the thermoplastic elastomeric material comprises a block copolymer comprising hard blocks, wherein said hard blocks comprise polyurethane, polyester or polyamide.

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14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Cancelled)

20. (New) A process according to claim 5, wherein the thermoplastic elastomeric material comprises a block copolymer comprising hard blocks, wherein said hard blocks comprise polyurethane, polyester or polyamide.

21. (New) A process according to claim 1, wherein the thermoplastic sealing or connecting member is a body plug, gasket ring, sealing ring, or shrink-on sleeving.

22. (New) A process according to claim 5, wherein the thermoplastic sealing or connecting member is a body plug, gasket ring, sealing ring, or shrink-on sleeving.